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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. Box 94094

Phyllis C. Mouton, Secretary
APRIL, 1988

RELEASE DATE:
May 25, 1988

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY APRIL 1988				REVISED MARCH 1988				REVISED APRIL 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,886.0	1,685.7	200.3	10.6	1,893.8	1,670.7	223.1	11.8	1,974.6	1,716.9	257.7	13.0
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	59.7	53.9	5.8	9.8	59.9	53.5	6.4	10.7	61.5	54.9	6.6	10.7
Baton Rouge 2/	258.2	235.7	22.5	8.7	259.4	234.0	25.4	9.8	265.9	238.3	27.6	10.4
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	69.1	61.0	8.1	11.8	69.5	60.3	9.2	13.2	74.9	60.7	14.2	18.9
Lafayette 4/	95.9	86.4	9.5	9.9	96.6	86.0	10.6	11.0	102.3	87.6	14.7	14.4
Lake Charles 5/	73.8	65.5	8.3	11.3	74.3	64.7	9.6	13.0	77.3	66.8	10.5	13.6
Monroe 6/	67.3	60.3	7.0	10.3	67.5	59.8	7.7	11.5	71.4	63.9	7.5	10.6
New Orleans 7/	585.5	531.5	54.0	9.2	586.6	528.1	58.5	10.0	607.3	541.7	65.6	10.8
Shreveport 8/	163.3	146.4	16.9	10.4	163.8	145.4	18.4	11.2	169.2	149.2	20.0	11.8

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during April amounted to 1,495,600, an increase of 1,100 above the previous month and an increase of 18,000 above the comparable period a year ago. The increase in nonmanufacturing payrolls for the current month was centered in the construction segment. Manufacturing employment for April was up as a result of an increase in the durable goods industry.

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During April, total estimated employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing increased by 600 workers. More demand for fabricated structural metal products contributed to the increase in fabricated metal products employment. A return to the normal employment level for a plant in the electrical and electronic equipment industry, after a partial shutdown, was responsible for the increase of other durable goods employment. An increase in transportation equipment industry payrolls was centered in the ship and boat building and repairing segment.

Nondurable goods employment, at 93,400, showed no net change from last month. Food and kindred products fell 200, while chemicals and allied products rose 200 for the current month.

Nonmanufacturing employment for Louisiana was estimated at 1,328,000 in April, an increase of 500 above the March revised level and 12,500 above the April 1987 figure. Mining employment was lower due to decreased production of crude petroleum and natural gas. General building construction, heavy construction and several special trades all experienced employment growth in April, with heavy construction showing the largest increase. Transportation and public utilities suffered a decrease in employment level largely due to a slowdown in the water transportation segment. Trade employment was up primarily due to an increase in the wholesale trade-nondurable goods segment. Finance, insurance and real estate increased by 100. Decreases in amusement and recreation services were significant in the lower level of employment for total services in April. Government employment was down mainly as a result of a drop in the number of state government employees.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 123,000 production workers in manufacturing increased from $462.21 in March to $466.23 in April, an increase of $4.02, and an increase of $12.34 from the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were $0.12 higher in April than last month, but two cents lower than the year-ago figure. Weekly hours averaged 42.5 for the current month, down 0.1 hours from the March revised level of 42.6 hours.

Total unemployment for Louisiana during April amounted to 200,300, a decrease of 22,800 below the March revised level of 223,100. The unemployment rate for April was 10.6 percent, compared to 11.8 percent for March and 13.0 percent for April 1987. The comparable national unemployment rate for April was 5.3 percent, compared to 5.9 percent in March and 6.2 percent for April of last year. The state's civilian labor force decreased from 1,893,800 in March to 1,886,000 in April, a loss of 7,800. Total employment, estimated at 1,685,700 for the current month, was up by 15,000 over the last month's revised figure but was 31,200 below April of last year.

Louisiana's unemployment rate will probably remain close to the current level for the next month. Manufacturing may increase during the next month. Employment in construction and services may increase in the early summer months.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change from March 1988	Net Change from April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,495.6	1,494.5	1,477.6	+ 1.1	+18.0
MINING	54.7	54.9	53.0	- 0.2	+ 1.7
Oil and Gas Extraction	51.9	52.1	50.3	- 0.2	+ 1.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	81.5	79.3	81.8	+ 2.2	- 0.3
MANUFACTURING	167.6	167.0	162.1	+ 0.6	+ 5.5
Durable Goods	74.2	73.6	69.8	+ 0.6	+ 4.4
Lumber and Wood Products	12.0	12.0	12.2	0	- 0.2
Furniture and Fixtures	0.6	0.7	0.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.5	5.5	5.8	0	- 0.3
Primary Metal Industries	2.8	2.9	2.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	11.3	11.1	10.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.1	9.0	7.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.1	6.8	7.5	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Transportation Equipment	23.2	23.0	20.0	+ 0.2	+ 3.2
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.6	2.6	2.3	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	93.4	93.4	92.3	0	+ 1.1
Food & Kindred Products	18.8	19.0	19.4	- 0.2	- 0.6
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.5	9.4	8.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Paper & Allied Products	12.1	12.1	11.7	0	+ 0.4
Printing & Publishing	10.3	10.3	10.1	0	+ 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	25.6	25.4	25.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.3	12.3	12.2	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.4	11.2	0	+ 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.8	4.9	4.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	104.0	104.3	103.3	- 0.3	+ 0.7
Railroad Transportation	5.2	5.2	5.4	0	- 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	58.8	58.9	57.8	- 0.1	+ 1.0
Water Transportation	22.8	23.2	22.6	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	40.0	40.2	40.1	- 0.2	- 0.1
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.0	18.1	18.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	22.0	22.1	21.8	- 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	361.1	360.9	358.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.9
Wholesale Trade	82.7	82.4	81.0	+ 0.3	+ 1.7
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	45.8	45.8	44.8	0	+ 1.0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	36.9	36.6	36.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Retail Trade	278.4	278.5	277.2	- 0.1	+ 1.2
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	56.7	56.5	56.7	+ 0.2	0
Food Stores	55.4	55.9	55.7	- 0.5	- 0.3
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	30.8	30.5	29.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Eating & Drinking Places	84.5	84.4	84.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	51.0	51.2	50.7	- 0.2	+ 0.3

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change from March 1988	Net Change from April 1987
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	84.8	84.7	84.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Banking	24.8	24.8	25.3	0	- 0.5
SERVICES	328.2	328.7	318.2	- 0.5	+10.0
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.4	22.2	21.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Personal Services	14.8	14.7	14.8	+ 0.1	0
Business Services	58.1	57.9	56.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.5	9.6	9.7	- 0.1	- 0.2
Miscellaneous Repair Services	5.2	5.4	5.2	- 0.2	0
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.0	8.8	8.2	- 0.8	- 0.2
Health Services	103.2	103.2	99.4	0	+ 3.8
Legal Services	15.2	15.4	14.7	- 0.2	+ 0.5
Educational Services	25.8	25.7	22.7	+ 0.1	+ 3.1
Social Services	19.0	19.1	19.0	- 0.1	0
Membership Organizations	26.0	25.8	25.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Miscellaneous Services	14.9	15.0	15.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	313.7	314.7	316.5	- 1.0	- 2.8
Federal	36.1	36.0	36.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2
State and Local	277.6	278.7	280.2	- 1.1	- 2.6
State	97.3	98.5	98.1	- 1.2	- 0.8
Local	180.3	180.2	182.1	+ 0.1	- 1.8

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the exception of the Lake Charles LMA which is prepared under the auspices of the Louisiana Department of Labor, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$466.23	$462.21	$453.89	42.5	42.6	41.3	$10.97	$10.85	$10.99
Durable Goods	426.99	417.22	402.62	43.0	42.4	41.0	9.93	9.84	9.82
Lumber & Wood Products	354.06	349.49	350.20	42.2	43.2	42.5	8.39	8.09	8.24
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	352.34	379.05	363.15	42.4	41.7	43.7	8.31	9.09	8.31
Fabricated Metal Products	423.04	437.78	439.66	43.3	44.9	44.5	9.77	9.75	9.88
Machinery, ex. Electrical	400.20	388.48	390.01	43.5	43.6	43.0	9.20	8.91	9.07
Electric & Electronic Equip.	588.07	552.15	483.22	43.4	40.9	37.0	13.55	13.50	13.06
Transportation Equipment	462.84	440.84	420.42	43.5	41.2	38.5	10.64	10.70	10.92
Nondurable Goods	499.80	501.19	498.37	42.0	42.8	41.6	11.90	11.71	11.98
Food & Kindred Products	312.15	302.63	311.98	38.3	38.7	38.9	8.15	7.82	8.02
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	204.66	202.29	183.04	37.9	37.6	33.1	5.40	5.38	5.53
Paper & Allied Products	586.92	567.68	560.35	43.8	43.5	41.6	13.40	13.05	13.47
Printing & Publishing	396.00	393.84	401.19	38.9	38.2	38.8	10.18	10.31	10.34
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	683.32	725.80	699.24	44.4	47.5	45.2	15.39	15.28	15.47
Petroleum & Coal Products	726.06	699.93	718.04	47.3	46.6	46.9	15.35	15.02	15.31
Petroleum Refining	743.99	713.11	734.45	47.6	46.7	46.9	15.63	15.27	15.66
MINING	536.36	532.35	532.18	46.0	45.5	45.1	11.66	11.70	11.80
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	511.34	509.21	491.17	40.2	39.2	39.9	12.72	12.99	12.31
BANKING	266.42	264.46	255.74	36.9	37.3	38.0	7.22	7.09	6.73

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 123,000 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 88,900 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 04 88				REVISED 03 88			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	22,225	19,325	2,900	13.0	22,500	19,175	3,325	14.8
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,500	8,325	1,175	12.3	9,500	8,175	1,325	14.0
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	5,600	4,375	1,225	21.8	5,825	4,225	1,600	27.4
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	15,100	12,475	2,625	17.4	15,075	12,125	2,950	19.5
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	14,825	13,350	1,475	10.0	14,800	13,175	1,625	10.9
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,325	5,600	725	11.4	6,475	5,525	950	14.8
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,225	3,625	600	14.0	4,250	3,575	675	15.7
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,400	3,875	525	11.8	4,325	3,725	600	13.7
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,125	3,300	825	19.8	4,225	3,200	1,025	24.1
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,800	7,075	725	9.2	7,875	7,075	800	10.1
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	9,700	8,125	1,575	16.1	9,675	7,875	1,800	18.7
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	12,875	11,325	1,550	12.1	12,900	11,175	1,725	13.3
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,350	3,375	975	22.3	4,225	3,250	975	23.2
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,200	7,425	775	9.5	8,175	7,300	875	10.7
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	12,325	10,725	1,600	13.0	12,375	10,650	1,725	14.0
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	7,975	6,775	1,200	15.0	8,125	6,675	1,450	17.7
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,700	5,775	925	13.9	6,725	5,700	1,025	15.3
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	24,175	20,725	3,450	14.2	24,325	20,500	3,825	15.7
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,200	9,450	1,750	15.7	11,375	9,400	1,975	17.4
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,275	6,650	625	8.7	7,325	6,650	675	9.1
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,125	10,425	1,700	14.1	12,300	10,350	1,950	15.9
JENA (LASALLE)	6,325	5,650	675	10.6	6,325	5,625	700	11.1
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	17,975	17,025	950	5.2	17,600	16,550	1,050	6.0
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,850	4,975	875	14.9	5,825	4,750	1,075	18.5
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,250	10,275	1,975	16.1	12,225	10,000	2,225	18.2
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,000	14,475	1,525	9.6	16,275	14,375	1,900	11.7
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	9,000	7,925	1,075	11.9	8,975	7,800	1,175	13.1
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	7,175	5,950	1,225	17.1	7,225	5,875	1,350	18.7
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,150	3,650	500	11.9	4,825	3,650	1,175	24.4
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,925	7,575	1,350	15.1	8,975	7,400	1,575	17.6
MANY (SABINE)	9,850	8,925	925	9.3	9,775	8,800	975	10.0
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,575	2,250	325	12.2	2,600	2,225	375	14.2
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,150	6,900	1,250	15.2	8,175	6,750	1,425	17.5
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	32,400	27,375	5,025	15.5	32,650	27,100	5,550	17.0
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	22,525	19,000	3,525	15.6	22,775	18,675	4,100	18.0
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	38,125	32,900	5,225	13.7	38,275	32,700	5,575	14.6
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,075	2,675	400	12.8	3,125	2,625	500	15.9
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,175	7,100	1,075	13.1	8,175	7,025	1,150	14.0
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	19,325	16,325	3,000	15.5	19,575	16,225	3,350	17.1
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	18,975	17,275	1,700	8.9	19,150	17,250	1,900	10.0
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	17,675	15,800	1,875	10.6	17,825	15,725	2,100	11.8
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,000	16,475	2,525	13.3	18,950	16,100	2,850	15.1
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,925	3,500	1,425	28.7	4,850	3,450	1,400	28.8
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,200	3,825	375	9.0	4,175	3,750	425	10.0
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,550	5,075	475	8.6	5,500	4,975	525	9.7

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.5	45.4	44.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
MANUFACTURING	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.7	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.3	2.2	2.3	+ 0.1	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.9	10.9	10.5	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	8.7	8.7	8.4	0	+ 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.2	2.3	+ 0.1	0
Other Retail Trade	3.4	3.5	3.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	11.2	11.2	11.1	0	+ 0.1
Health Services	5.0	5.0	4.7	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	12.7	12.7	12.7	0	0
Federal	2.7	2.7	2.8	0	- 0.1
State and Local	10.0	10.0	9.9	0	+ 0.1
State	4.8	4.8	4.7	0	+ 0.1
Local	5.2	5.2	5.2	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area was estimated at 45,500 during the month of April. This estimate was 100 more than the previous month and 600 more than April of last year.

Employment in manufacturing was estimated at 3,400 during April. This estimate was unchanged from the previous month and April of last year.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 42,100 for the month of April. This estimate was 100 more than March and 600 more than April of last year. During the past thirty days, construction and eating and drinking places have increased employment, with other retail trade showing a slight decline. Compared to last April, most major segments in nonmanufacturing have increased or remained unchanged, with the exception of federal government.

During the next thirty days, total employment is expected to increase, with the number of unemployed showing a corresponding reduction.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	213.5	212.9	211.6	+ 0.6	+ 1.9
MANUFACTURING	18.6	18.7	18.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	3.8	4.0	3.8	- 0.2	0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	1.0	1.1	1.0	- 0.1	0
Other Durable Goods	1.6	1.7	1.6	- 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	14.8	14.7	14.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.2	10.2	10.2	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.2	1.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
MINING	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	20.5	20.1	20.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.4	10.4	10.0	0	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	50.8	50.4	50.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade	11.5	11.5	11.1	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.8	7.8	7.6	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.7	3.7	3.5	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	39.3	38.9	39.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.3	13.4	13.5	- 0.1	- 0.2
Banking	3.4	3.5	3.7	- 0.1	- 0.3
SERVICES	44.0	43.7	42.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.5
GOVERNMENT	55.1	55.4	56.0	- 0.3	- 0.9
Federal	2.3	2.2	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	52.8	53.2	53.8	- 0.4	- 1.0
State	30.2	30.7	31.2	- 0.5	- 1.0
Local	22.6	22.5	22.6	+ 0.1	0

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$531.65	$528.28	516.09	42.6	42.5	42.9	$12.48	$12.43	$12.03
Petro-Chemicals	686.14	683.87	662.16	45.2	45.5	46.5	15.18	15.03	14.24

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,400 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA, at 213,500 during April, was up 600 from the revised March estimate and up 1,900 over the comparable period a year ago.

Employment in manufacturing, at 18,600, was down 100 during the current period and up 200 over the year-ago estimate. Durable goods fell due to less business in fabricated structural metal products, in miscellaneous fabricated metal products, and in iron and steel foundries. Nondurable goods rose due to more business in men's, youth's, and boy's furnishings, work clothing, and allied garments, in miscellaneous apparel and accessories, and in paper mills, except building paper mills.

Total nonmanufacturing was up 700 during April. Construction was up due to more business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings. Retail trade was up due to more business in grocery stores, motor vehicle dealers (new and used), and eating and drinking places. Banking was down due to less business in commercial and stock savings banks. Services rose due to seasonal increases in hotels, motels, and tourist courts, in amusement and recreation services, except motion pictures, and more business in social services and engineering, architectural, and surveying services. Federal and local government had small staff increases while state government was down due to seasonal declines related to the regulation of agricultural marketing and commodities, and the termination of temporary employment in executive, legislative, and general government, except finance.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,400 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $531.65, up $3.37 from the revised March average. Average weekly hours, at 42.6, were up 0.1 hour. Average hourly earnings, at $12.48, were up five cents per hours. More overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of the Baton Rouge LMA's residents was 235,700 during April, an increase of 1,700 over the revised March estimate and down 2,600 from the year-ago estimate. Unemployment, at 22,500, was down 2,900 during the current period and down 5,100 from April of last year. The local unemployment rate was 8.7 percent, down from March's 9.8 percent and down from the 10.4 percent for the comparable period last year. The current state rate is 10.6 percent and the national rate is 5.3 percent. Baton Rouge's civilian labor force totaled 258,200 during April, down 1,200 from the prior month and down 7,700 from last April.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 4,106 individuals with new or renewal applications and placed 1,685 applicants in jobs during April 1988.

The consumer price index for March 1988 for all urban consumers was 116.5 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 115.1 using base period 1982, 1983, 1984 = 100.

Unemployment is expected to start its seasonal increase during the coming month due to students seeking summer work in the local labor market.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	52.8	52.6	51.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.7
MANUFACTURING	4.3	4.3	3.6	0	+ 0.7
Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	2.2	0	+ 0.8
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
MINING	5.9	5.8	5.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.8	5.8	5.5	0	+ 0.3
Water Transportation	3.5	3.5	3.2	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.5	13.4	13.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.7	10.6	10.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.2	3.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
SERVICES	8.8	8.8	8.5	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.6	10.8	0	- 0.2
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	10.2	10.2	10.3	0	- 0.1
State	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	- 0.1
Local	7.3	7.3	7.3	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux labor market area in April moved up to 52,800, a level 200 above March. Changes were mostly seasonal in nature. Since April of 1987, total employment displayed an increase of 1,700, or 3.3 percent. Every industry division except government and finance, insurance, and real estate registered a gain over the year.

Manufacturing totaled 4,300 in April. There were no changes in either durable goods or nondurable goods from the previous month. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is up 700, with an increase in durable goods partly offset by a small decrease in nondurable goods.

Mining moved up as weather became more favorable for outside work. Construction remained on the same level. Transportation and public utilities showed no significant change. Retail trade exhibited a gain, mostly in employment by eating and drinking places. Finance, insurance, and real estate held steady. Services displayed no change in total employment. Government held steady in each major sector.

Estimated unemployment in April was 8,100, down 1,100 from March. Unemployment presently comprises 11.8 percent of the labor force compared to 13.2 percent in March and 18.9 percent in April 1987. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits numbered 1,378.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show a small seasonal overall gain. Much will depend on development in the oil and gas industry. Construction and mining will probably add workers as weather conditions become better for outside work. Retail trade will likely show some increase. Unemployment is expected to move up with the summer increase in the number of entrants and re-entrants into the labor force.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	82.1	82.2	80.7	- 0.1	+ 1.4
MANUFACTURING	5.9	6.0	5.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.6	4.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
MINING	10.3	10.4	10.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	22.5	22.4	21.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	5.1	5.1	4.9	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	2.8	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Retail Trade	17.4	17.3	17.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.7	2.8	0	- 0.1
Food Stores	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.8	1.8	1.6	0	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	10.0	9.9	9.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.7	3.7	3.9	0	- 0.2
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.3	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	18.3	18.3	17.5	0	+ 0.8
GOVERNMENT	12.9	12.9	12.8	0	+ 0.1
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	12.0	12.0	11.9	0	+ 0.1
State	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
Local	6.9	6.9	6.9	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette LMA was estimated at 82,100 for April, a decrease of 100 from the March estimate, but is 1,400 above the April 1987 figure.

Manufacturing showed a decrease of 100 since last month, but was still 100 above the revised figure for last year. Mining also showed a decline of 100, but was 200 above the April 1987 revised figure. Wholesale and retail trade showed an increase of 100, centered in eating and drinking places in the retail trade segment. Other industry divisions showed no change from last month.

Employment for the next thirty days should improve as the weather improves but unemployment will likely remain high as students and school employees enter the labor force over the summer months.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.2	58.0	58.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
MANUFACTURING	11.1	11.1	10.3	0	+ 0.8
Durable Goods	2.6	2.6	1.9	0	+ 0.7
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.4	2.4	1.7	0	+ 0.7
Nondurable Goods	8.5	8.5	8.4	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.7	7.7	7.6	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
MINING	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	4.3	3.9	4.8	+ 0.4	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	3.6	3.9	3.7	- 0.3	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.5	14.4	14.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	2.7	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	11.6	11.5	11.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.1	2.0	2.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	11.0	11.0	10.9	0	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Personal Services	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	10.0	10.0	10.6	0	- 0.6
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.4	9.4	10.0	0	- 0.6
State	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Local	5.9	5.9	6.5	0	- 0.6

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles LMA was estimated at 58,200 for the month of April. This is an increase of 200 from the previous month, and 200 above the comparable period a year ago.

Construction showed a gain of 400 from the previous month due to seasonal growth in the sector. Wholesale and retail trade rose by 100 over last month's revised figure, primarily in general merchandise, apparel and accessory stores. Transportation and public utilities was down by 300 from last month's estimate; water transportation caused the decline. All other sectors showed little or no change from the prior month.

Employment and unemployment for the Lake Charles area should remain stable for the next thirty days.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.5	53.3	55.4	+ 0.2	- 1.9
MANUFACTURING	7.2	7.2	7.4	0	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.0	5.1	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.6	2.6	3.0	0	- 0.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.6	2.6	2.9	0	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.2	14.1	14.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.4	10.3	10.7	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.4	2.4	2.5	0	- 0.1
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.2	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.4	3.4	3.6	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.5	4.4	4.5	+ 0.1	0
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	11.5	11.5	11.5	0	0
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Health Services	5.2	5.1	5.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.6	11.4	0	- 0.8
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.0	10.0	10.8	0	- 0.8
State	4.7	4.8	4.5	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Local	5.3	5.2	6.3	+ 0.1	- 1.0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment, estimated at 53,500 during mid-April, was 200 above the March estimate of 53,300.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,200, was unchanged over the month.

Wholesale and retail trade, estimated at 14,200, was 100 above the March estimate. Finance, insurance and real estate was also up by 100 over the month. All other segments were unchanged from the March estimates.

Over the next thirty days employment should be relatively stable as construction and outside activities should improve slightly while the end of the spring semester will lower employment at educational facilities in the area. Unemployment is expected to remain high.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	511.7	511.6	507.5	+ 0.1	+ 4.2
MANUFACTURING	43.6	43.5	41.5	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
Durable Goods	22.7	22.5	20.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.5	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.2	1.2	1.3	0	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2.3	2.2	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Machinery	2.8	2.7	2.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Transportation Equipment	14.0	13.9	12.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.9
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	10.3	10.2	8.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	20.9	21.0	21.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	5.8	5.8	6.1	0	- 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Paper & Allied Products	0.7	0.8	0.7	- 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	3.9	3.9	3.9	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.6	4.6	4.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	14.8	14.8	14.1	0	+ 0.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	13.9	13.9	13.2	0	+ 0.7
CONSTRUCTION	22.6	22.4	21.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	43.6	43.5	43.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Railroad Transportation	1.5	1.5	1.6	0	- 0.1
Water Transportation	12.8	12.9	12.5	- 0.1	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	133.7	133.7	133.5	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	31.7	31.7	31.4	0	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.1	18.1	18.0	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.6	13.6	13.4	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	102.0	102.0	102.1	0	- 0.1
General Merchandise	13.8	13.7	13.9	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food Stores	18.2	18.3	18.4	- 0.1	- 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	35.2	35.2	34.9	0	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	34.0	33.9	34.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Banking	7.3	7.3	7.3	0	0
SERVICES	135.1	135.5	133.0	- 0.4	+ 2.1
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.2	13.1	13.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Health Services	36.3	36.3	35.4	0	+ 0.9
GOVERNMENT	84.3	84.3	86.2	0	- 1.9
Federal	16.0	15.9	15.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	68.3	68.4	70.3	- 0.1	- 2.0
State	18.7	18.8	19.6	- 0.1	- 0.9
Local	49.6	49.6	50.7	0	- 1.1

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**
All MANUFACTURING	$439.10	$430.77	$426.10	42.1	41.5	39.6	$10.43	$10.38	$10.76
Durable Goods	404.37	379.61	380.77	42.7	40.6	38.5	9.47	9.35	9.89
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	270.86	272.10	285.00	29.0	30.0	30.0	9.34	9.07	9.50
Fabricated Metal Products	455.40	402.78	412.40	45.0	41.1	40.0	10.12	9.80	10.31
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	397.38	352.23	363.68	44.4	39.8	37.3	8.95	8.85	9.75
Nondurable Goods	476.51	488.62	469.27	41.4	42.6	40.7	11.51	11.47	11.53
Food & Kindred Products	305.05	309.49	326.40	36.1	36.8	38.4	8.45	8.41	8.50
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	189.28	185.64	149.58	36.4	35.7	28.6	5.20	5.20	5.23
Paper & Allied Products	420.73	441.28	404.08	46.8	47.5	45.3	8.99	9.29	8.92
Printing & Publishing	368.52	367.70	380.14	40.1	39.2	40.7	9.19	9.38	9.34
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	708.52	799.79	736.76	45.1	51.8	45.2	15.71	15.44	16.30

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 30,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in April increased to 511,700, a level 100 above March. The largest changes were seasonal in nature. Over the year, nonagricultural employment gained 4,200 workers, with increases in all industry divisions except government and finance, insurance and real estate.

Manufacturing employment totaled 43,600 showing an overall gain of 100 since the previous month. Ship and boatbuilding and repairing, machinery, and fabricated metal products all reflected increases due to more contracts. Lumber and wood products experienced the greatest decrease due to less business. In the nondurable goods segment, paper and allied products decreased due to a reduction in orders.

Construction showed normal seasonal gains mostly in the heavy construction segment. Transportation and public utilities and finance, insurance and real estate made slight upward adjustments. Less favorably, services employment was lowered as the result of the close of the Fair Grounds racing season. Partly offsetting the decrease was the opening of the Jefferson Downs racing season. Mining, wholesale and retail trade, and government showed no significant change.

Production workers in the area earned an average of $439.10 per week in April, up $8.33 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were 42.1, up 36 minutes from the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $10.43, up five cents from the previous month. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are up $13.00 in manufacturing.

Estimated unemployment in April decreased to 54,000, a level 4,500 below March. The increase in employment was mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 9.2 percent of the labor force compared with 10.0 percent in March and 10.8 percent in April of last year. The April rate was lower than the state rate of 10.6 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 9,737.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to exhibit normal seasonal changes. Public and private educational services will make downward adjustments for the summer season. Construction and mining will probably add workers. Unemployment is expected to increase as the number of entrants and re-entrants into the labor market increases during the summer months.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1988*	March 1988**	April 1987**	Net Change From March 1988	Net Change From April 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	132.0	132.1	131.8	- 0.1	+ 0.2
MANUFACTURING	17.2	17.1	18.0	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Durable Goods	12.4	12.3	12.8	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Metals and Machinery	7.3	7.2	7.4	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.5	1.4	1.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	5.8	5.8	6.0	0	- 0.2
Other Durable Goods	4.7	4.7	4.9	0	- 0.2
Nondurable Good	4.8	4.8	5.2	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.8	0	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
MINING	2.8	2.8	3.3	0	- 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	7.3	6.9	6.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.0	8.0	8.4	0	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	32.2	32.3	32.4	- 0.1	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	7.8	7.8	7.9	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	24.4	24.5	24.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.2	7.4	7.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
SERVICES	32.2	32.3	30.5	- 0.1	+ 1.7
GOVERNMENT	25.1	25.3	25.2	- 0.2	- 0.1
Federal	4.7	4.8	4.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	20.4	20.5	20.6	- 0.1	- 0.2
State	6.0	6.1	6.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Local	14.4	14.4	14.5	0	- 0.1

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**	April '88*	March '88**	April '87**
All MANUFACTURING	$483.69	$482.72	$456.55	41.2	41.4	39.7	$11.74	$11.66	$11.50
Lumber and Wood Products	255.23	257.56	276.49	35.4	37.6	40.6	7.21	6.85	6.81
Metals and Machinery	475.73	468.42	472.42	42.4	42.2	39.5	11.22	11.10	11.76
Food and Kindred Products	334.11	332.48	354.35	42.4	39.3	42.9	7.88	8.46	8.26
Printing and Publishing	351.29	342.14	347.35	35.7	35.2	34.7	9.84	9.72	10.01
Petroleum and Coal Products	606.17	540.67	560.88	46.7	44.1	49.9	12.98	12.26	11.24

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 13,000 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The total nonagricultural wage and salary employment for this area decreased slightly to 132,000, down from 132,100 in March. During the past month, total manufacturing employment increased from 17,100 to 17,200, while the total nonmanufacturing employment estimate moved down to 114,800, down 200 from the previous month, but shows a significant gain from April 1987.

The increase in total manufacturing employment resulted from stronger production in metals and machinery industries. The total manufacturing employment estimate of 17,200 remains below the year ago estimate of 18,000.

Total nonmanufacturing employment, estimated at 114,800, continues to show job losses in trade, finance, insurance, and real estate, services and government. Employment gains in construction industries were not enough to offset the job losses.

The 13,000 production workers in manufacturing in this area had average weekly earnings of $483.69, an increase of $0.97 from the previous month and $27.14 from one year ago. The average weekly hours of 41.2 were down slightly from 41.4 during the previous month and were up from 39.7 in April 1987. The average hourly earnings of $11.74 were up from $11.66 in March and $11.50 in April 1987.

The civilian labor force for this area, estimated at 163,300, includes 146,400 employed and 16,900 unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 10.4 percent.

The outlook is for gradual gains in nonagricultural wage and salary employment, while total unemployment will decline until the month of June when new and re-entrants into the labor force will cause an increase in unemployment.

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